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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/533,261	06/22/2005	Yoshio Iwasaki	050-103	5052
35870	7590	11/19/2007	EXAMINER	
APEX JURIS, PLLC			NGUYEN, ANTHONY H	
TRACY M HEIMS				
LAKE CITY CENTER, SUITE 410			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
12360 LAKE CITY WAY NORTHEAST				2854
SEATTLE, WA 98125				
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			11/19/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

T/H

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/533,261	IWASAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Anthony H. Nguyen	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

Figure 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 4-16 are objected to because the language "an air space amount of ____ mm" (claim 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14 and 16) is unclear since the language appears to direct to a volume while the unit of measurement is in a length measurement which is directed to a thickness of a layer. Additionally, the abbreviation "JIS-A" (claims 5, 6 and 9-16) is unclear in meaning.

The above are simply examples of the errors present. Applicant is required to carefully review the claims and eliminate all such errors.

To the extent the claims are positively recited, it appears that the following prior art rejection is proper.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Beltzung et al. (US5,431,989) in view of Ogita et al. (US 6,182,568).

With respect to claims 1 and 2, Beltzung et al. teaches a printing blanket having a reinforcement layer formed of a sheet of fabric 6, a compressive layer which is divided into two layers 3 and 5 by a separation layer 4 and a surface layer 1 laid on the compressive layer through a supporting body 2 as shown in Fig.2 of Beltzung et al. Beltzung et al. does not clearly teach a surface rubber layer. Ogita et al. teaches a printing blanket having a surface rubber layer 15 (Ogita et al., Fig.1b and col.10, lines 55-67). In view of the teaching of Ogita et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the printing blanket of Beltzung et al. by substituting the surface rubber layer as taught by Ogita et al. for optimum printing quality if in fact Beltzung does not teach a surface rubber layer. With respect to claim 3, the use of a separation layer which is formed by a layer of elastomer is well known in the art as exemplified by Beltzung et al. col.1 lines 13-19. With respect to claims 4-16, the selection of the desired air space amount, the desired matrix hardness for the compressive layer and the desired thickness of the separation layer would be obvious through routine experimentation depending

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upon a printing configuration and materials used for printing in order to get best possible print quality.

Conclusion

The patents to Henry et al., Knauer et al. and Decker are cited to show other structures having obvious similarities to the claimed structure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-2169. The examiner can normally be reached daily from 9 AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen, can be reached on (571) 272-2258.

The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.



Anthony Nguyen
11/13/07
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800